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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

Col Sweeney,

2/22/71

Dr. Noko,

When we first participated in the SAL effort, ours were only one of several means of verification considered. Now, however, it appears that NRP systems are the single most important asset for verification. I think it is time for us to step in more formally, and I would like to see Bud Coyle as a direct participant.

W

TS [redacted]

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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

February 22, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. NAKA

SUBJECT: Consultation to Verification Panel Working Group

The memorandum to the right requests Dr. Smith, Chairman of the Verification Panel Working Group, to permit the NRO to be officially represented on the Working Group as a consultant.

As you will recall, in the preparation of earlier SALT studies, the staff was called upon to formally participate in the development of a part of the Verification Panel Report. Since that time we have informally and unofficially been working, primarily with General Allison's staff, on various current papers. Our main concern has been to moderate the patent optimism regarding verification which has tended to be incorporated in drafts of the studies under review. Our relationship with General Allison's staff has been good in view of our not being formally involved.

Quite often, as of late, other agencies have been speaking for the NRO in terms of verification capabilities. We do not feel that we have been in the communication loop sufficiently to preclude this. An official consultation role will ease the situation.

Recommend that you sign the memorandum to the right.

[redacted]

HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Major, USAF

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1st NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 24, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. K. WAYNE SMITH, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Consultation to Verification Panel Working Group

For some time the NRO has provided both direct and indirect consultation to various papers being prepared in support of SALT by the Verification Panel Working Group.

Now that NRP systems are considered more important than they were earlier in your deliberations, I feel that it is necessary to assure that our current and projected collection capabilities are accurately stated along with the issues in the studies and papers. I am concerned that your working members may not be fully cognizant of the dynamic nature of the NRP and that our projected capabilities may be either understated or overstated in assisting the Verification Panel's decision process.

For these reasons I strongly recommend that the NRO be represented as a consultant to the Verification Panel Working Group. If this is agreeable to you, I would like to nominate a member of my staff, Major Harold Coyle, Assistant Deputy Director for Plans and Policy, to be the consultant representative. For the past several months, he has unofficially been participating in the on-going studies. In addition to being fully apprised of current NRP activity, Major Coyle is able to draw upon the specialized knowledge of the staff for consultative purposes.

Please notify me of your decision on this matter.

[redacted]

F. Robert Naka

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